



Epistle from

St. Timothy

Evangelical Lutheran Church

Transforming Lives by Connecting Communities

Faith Stories Are Meant to Be Told

I can recall how lonely and lost I felt as a young person away from home for an extended period for the first time. I had not yet gotten to know anyone else in the place, and I was homesick besides. Having been taken to church since toddlerhood, I thought to ask God for help, but help didn't seem to come immediately. I remember taking a long walk and then going back to my room and opening my Bible just because I didn't know what else to do. And—'somehow'—my eyes fell on these words from Psalm 116: "I love the Lord because he has heard my voice and my supplications. Because he has inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call upon him as long as I live." Suddenly, I no longer felt alone. God was telling me that God's ear was inclined toward me. God was lovingly interested, was paying attention—to me! My distress was eased... and, through the years, my sense of God's attentive nearness has remained.

The above vignette is one of my personal faith stories.

Not long ago, as worshippers arrived at a Sunday service in St. Timothy's they were given a half-sheet of paper that contained five "faith story ticklers"—items that asked the worshipper to think about God's activity in his/her life. ("Where have you noticed God's presence in the past week?" "For what are you giving God thanks this morning?" "Who or what has been a witness of Jesus for you in your life?", etc.) Those present were invited to respond in thought to just one of the items and, later in the service, were asked to share that response with one or two other people. It was a quick and simple exercise in telling a personal faith story.

To be sure, there is much more to say than a sentence or two in response to any of the items that were listed on that sheet. Yet, there are times when sharing just a snippet from our longer faith story can make a difference in another person's life. As followers of Jesus, we should be ready to **say something** about our faith, because, while God's activity in our lives is a blessing to us individually, it also is meant to be a blessing to those around us.

*Continued on page 3—see **SR. JANET***

St. Timothy Mission Statement

Nurtured and sustained by God's love,
we are called and inspired to share His love with our neighbor,
to make God's story known, and to help our neighbors near and far
...so that all may experience God's love.

July Worship Calendar

Sunday Morning Worship – 9:30 a.m.

Date	Day	Special Events	Readings
July 1	Sunday 9:30 a.m.	Pentecost 6	Lamentations 3:22-33; Psalm 30; 2 Corinthians 8:7-15; Mark 5:21-43
July 8	Sunday 9 a.m.	Pentecost 7 No Worship at St. Timothy Joint Worship at Hope UCC	Ezekiel 2:1-5; Psalm 123; 2 Corinthians 12:2-10; Mark 6:1-13
July 15	Sunday 9:30 a.m.	Pentecost 8 Joint Worship with Hope UCC at St. Timothy	Amos 7:7-15; Ps. 85:8-13; Ephesians 1:3-14; Mark 6:14-29
July 22	Sunday 9:30 a.m.	Pentecost 9	Jeremiah 23:1-6; Psalm 23; Ephesians 2:11-22; Mark 6:30-34, 53-56
July 29	Sunday 9:30 a.m.	Pentecost 10	2 Kings 4:42-44; Psalm 145:10-18; Ephesians 3:14-21; John 6:1-21

August Worship Calendar

Sunday Morning Worship – 9:30 a.m.

Date	Day	Special Events	Readings
August 5	Sunday 9:30 a.m.	Pentecost 11	Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15; Psalm 78:23-29; Ephesians 4:1-16; John 6:24-35
August 12	Sunday 9:30 a.m.	Pentecost 12	1 Kings 19:4-8; Psalm 34:1-8; Ephesians 4:25-5:2; John 6:35, 41-51
August 19	Sunday 9:30 a.m.	Pentecost 13	Proverbs 9:1-6; Psalm 34:9-14; Ephesians 5:15-20; John 6:51-58
August 26	Sunday 9:30 a.m.	Pentecost 14 Guest Pastor: Pr. Mia White while Sister Janet is on vacation	Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18; Psalm 34:15-22; Ephesians 6:10-20; John 6:56-69

NE PA SYNOD WEB SITE

www.godslove.org or www.nepsynod.org
for information about our synod

ELCA WEB SITE

www.elca.org

for information about our national church



Find us on Facebook at
facebook.com/sttimothyallentownpa



Follow us on Twitter at
twitter.com/StTimAPa

AS PASTORAL CARE NEEDS ARISE...

Please help Sister Janet provide timely pastoral care by informing her if you or another member of the congregation goes into the hospital or if you have any other pastoral care needs (in-home visit, spiritual counsel, baptism, funeral, wedding). You can reach her mobile phone at 570-401-5251 (please leave a message and she will get back to you) or by calling the church office at 610-435-6512 Ext. 200 and leaving a message with Cheryl.

EPISTLE FROM ST. TIMOTHY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH is a publication of St. Timothy Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA). EPISTLE FROM ST. TIMOTHY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH. Published monthly except August by St. Timothy Evangelical Lutheran Church, 140 South Ott Street, Allentown, PA 18104-6197. Questions or comments may be directed to the Editor, Epistle from St. Timothy, St. Timothy Evangelical Lutheran Church, 140 South Ott Street, Allentown, Pennsylvania 18104-6197.

SR. JANET *(continued from page 1)*

In other words, our faith most certainly is personal, but it is never meant to be private. We ought to “let our faith hang out”—through our loving actions, our compassionate attitudes, **and** our faith-full words.

Telling our faith stories is for the purpose, simply, of giving witness to what we have experienced—telling another person about our faith and how we have been aware of God’s presence and loving action in our lives. In humility, love, and confidence, we tell our stories—and listen in a respectful and honoring way to the stories of others—so that all may be blessed and encouraged. We are offering a gift, not trying to convince or to argue a theological point.

What part of your faith story might you share with another person today? Who would be blessed by hearing about your trust in God and God’s faithfulness to you? Sometimes, speaking a word of faith is as simple as saying out loud, “Isn’t that a beautiful sunset that God has painted!” Or, when someone is down, “I’ve felt that way, too. Don’t give up; God loves you and is with you.” Keep alert to opportunities that arise for you to **speak** a word about your faith in Jesus as well as to **show** the love of Jesus. Don’t hesitate to share your story, because **faith stories are meant to be told!**

Joyfully yours in Christ’s service,
Sister Janet

ST. TIMOTHY’S EMAIL
office@sttimothyhc.org

FIND MORE EMAIL ADDRESSES AT:
www.sttimothyhc.org

Tuesday Prayer for Peace

Is a weekly opportunity to gather with brothers and sisters in faith for thirty minutes of reflection and prayer for peace—in hearts, in neighborhoods, in the world.

Prayer begins at 7:00 A.M.

We gather in St. Timothy Church lounge.
Please join us and invite others as well!

**Moving? New Email?
Change Your Phone No.?**

We constantly struggle in this mobile society we live in to keep up with everyone’s current mailing and contact information. We are asking everyone to make sure the information we have is up-to-date by completing the form below and either mail it to the church secretary or drop it in the offering plate.

Name	
Address	
City	State Zip Code
Home Phone	<input type="checkbox"/> include in Directory <input type="checkbox"/> omit from Directory
Cell Phone (optional)	<input type="checkbox"/> include in Directory <input type="checkbox"/> omit from Directory
Work Phone (optional)	<input type="checkbox"/> include in Directory <input type="checkbox"/> omit from Directory
Email	<input type="checkbox"/> include in Directory <input type="checkbox"/> omit from Directory
Please send my copy of the newsletter to me via:	<input type="checkbox"/> Mail (Post Office) <input type="checkbox"/> Email

PLEASE PLACE COMPLETED FORM IN OFFERING PLATE OR DROP IN THE MAIL.





Health Topic of the Month

by Charlotte Cruse



Act FAST for Best Stroke Results

Almost 8,000 people in the United States suffer a stroke each year. Do you know what to do if you suspect someone is having a stroke? It is important to know the signs and symptoms of a stroke. The chance for a person to recover from a stroke is dependent on early identification of the symptoms. The best outcome results if treatment is given within three hours of the onset of the symptoms.

Symptoms of a stroke include:

- sudden numbness or weakness of the face, an arm or leg
- one side of the body is generally affected
- slurred speech
- sudden vision impairment or double vision
- severe headache
- difficulty walking or movements are not coordinated

If you suspect that a person is having a stroke, remember the acronym **FAST**.

Face: Is the person able to smile? Is there a droop on one side of their face?

Arm: Is the person able to raise both arms? Does one arm drop downward?

Speech: Ask the person to repeat a simple sentence. Is the person's response strange or is their speech slurred?

Time: Note what time the symptoms occurred and call 9-1-1 immediately. Remember, if treatment is started within three hours of the onset of symptoms, the person stands a better chance for recovery.

If you fall into one or more of the following categories, you are at an increased risk for a stroke:

- Untreated high blood pressure
- Use of tobacco
- Have diabetes, high cholesterol, or are obese

Remember to act **FAST**.

Adapted from the National Stroke Association, Centers for Disease Control and Health Options

Offering of Letters

St. Timothy held an "Offering of Letters" (in cooperation with Bread for the World) following the worship service on June 6. The event was an opportunity for members to advocate with U.S. Senators from Pennsylvania on behalf of poor, hungry, and vulnerable people in our country and in the world. The Senators were asked to support legislation and a 2019 federal budget that includes compassion and justice for the vulnerable and needy ones in our society and around the globe. Those who participated signed the messages on pre-printed cards, adding personal messages, and addressed the cards to Senator Casey and Senator Toomey, respectively. Approximately 27 cards were hand delivered to each of the Senators' Allentown offices (a total of 54 messages) on June 8 by Mary

Sue Schnell. ***May we add our faithful prayers and ongoing advocacy to this effort—"so that all may experience God's love!"***

Speaking of ongoing advocacy: Our church provides tools for us to stay abreast of pending legislation, gain insight into current issues, and advocate for justice. For information specific to Pennsylvania, go to www.lutheranadvocacy.org where you also can sign up for email alerts. For resources relating to the national scene, go to www.elca.org/advocacy where you also can sign up for advocacy alerts and can visit their "action center." An ecumenical effort focusing specifically on ending hunger around the world is Bread for the World, www.bread.org.

Our Ongoing Discernment with Hope United Church of Christ

For the past several months, St. Timothy Lutheran has been in gentle conversation with Hope United Church of Christ regarding the potential shape of relationship between the two congregations. Obviously, we already are related in the most important way—as members of the Body of Christ. Is there more which God is calling us to do or be, together? Possibilities for connecting include simply “renting” building space to Hope, working together in specific outreach efforts in the community (with or without sharing the building), sharing in worship and congregational life as two cooperating yet distinct congregations, and, perhaps, possibilities which have not as yet been envisioned.

In recent conversation about the process of discernment, St. Timothy’s Church Council agreed that there seems to be life in the engagement which has happened thus far and that, in order to discern well, we need more opportunities to get to know each other. Since the visits which each congregation made to the other in May were for contemporary/praise style services, we are planning to make similar visits in July around the traditional style services in Hope and in St. Timothy. Here’s the plan:

Sunday, July 8, at 10:15 a.m.—St. Timothy will join **Hope (1031 Flexer Avenue)** for worship. *(To be clear, there will be NO services at St. Timothy that morning.)* Pastor Mia White will lead worship in Hope’s traditional style, and Sister Janet will preach.

Sunday, July 15, at 9:30 a.m.—Hope will join us at St. Timothy for worship. Sister Janet will lead worship in St. Timothy’s traditional style, and Pastor White will preach.

Please plan to be present in both of these worship services, and please **pray daily for the guidance of the Holy Spirit and open hearts as we all seek to discern God’s intentions** in the possible deepening of relationship between the two congregations. If you have any questions or any suggestions as to how we can be more effectively in conversation, please speak with Sister Janet or with Mary Sue Schnell.

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod Assembly

This year’s NEP Synod Assembly took place June 8-9 in Wilkes Barre. We thank George and Nancy Fennell for serving as this year’s assembly members from St. Timothy. They, Sister Janet, and several hundred other members of NEPS congregations joined in celebration, prayer, service, learning, and discerning decision-making. For more detail, see the “Synod News” included in this Epistle and also go to nepasynod.org and click on “2018 Assembly.”

Note that our 2019 synod assembly will be a one-day event (June 1) in Hazleton. Please consider the possibility of serving as an assembly member or simply attending as a visitor.



Highlights of June 12 Congregation Council Meeting
Funds (\$ 800) were received from the Westside Mission Collaborative to put towards the cost of the WOW mailing.

Sister Janet provided thoughts on the recent synod assembly. A new bishop will be elected at the 2020 assembly.

Members reflected on a series of questions about our dialogue with Hope UCC. Hope is not looking to become part of a union church. A meeting with both councils is planned. Pastor Mia will cover Sister Janet’s two vacation Sundays.

The \$ 30,000 bequest from the Hader/Dedekind trust was received.

Council approved the following expenditures:

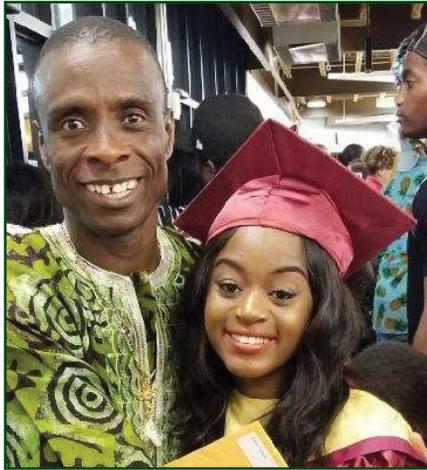
- Repairing, coating, and relining the parking lot (\$4,400.00).
- Replacing carpeting in fellowship hall rooms (youth/choir) and hallway at a cost of \$4,075 and replacing the carpet apron with tile at a cost of time and material.
- Purchasing a full-page ad in the October 14 Crop Walk program (\$100.00).

Quilters

The Quilters Group recently delivered 8 fleece blankets, 3 large quilts and several donated bedding items to The Fund to Benefit Children and Youth. They distributed them to the Sixth Street Shelter and Pinebrook. Thanks to all who helped with this project.

Congratulations Graduate!

Famela Zulu graduated from Whitehall High School on Monday, June 4th and is planning to begin a course of study at East Stroudsburg University in the fall, majoring in psychology. Congratulations, Famela!! We are proud of you, and our prayers are with you! (Famela's information arrived too late for last month's newsletter and we are happy to include it now.--Ed.)



Famela Zulu and proud dad, Rufus



We pray weekly for our members at home. Every month we highlight a portion our list of homebound members so that you can send cards, and perhaps visit!

Here is this month's list (*birthday in italics*):

Ms. Emily Flowers, Good Shepherd Home, Raker #204B, 543 St. John St., Allentown, PA 18103 (*June 3*)

Margaret (Peg) Leiby, 2868 Reading Road, Allentown, Pa. 18103 (*November 1*)

Carol Keller, 3209 Aberdeen Circle, Allentown, PA 18104 (*October 10*)

July and August birthdays include:

Virginia (Ginny) Stetz, Woodland Terrace at the Oaks, 1263 S. Cedar Crest Blvd., Apt. 310, Allentown, PA 18103 (*July 23*)

The Recycling Corner

Have you ever wondered how to recycle some of the items around the house? How to be better stewards of God's earth and help others at the same time? Here are some of our ongoing projects:

ARTICLES	WHERE TO PUT THEM	PERSON IN CHARGE
Sheet blankets	Coatroom by upstairs restroom . . .	Quilting committee
Soda cans	Coatroom by upstairs restroom . . .	Nancy Fennell (<i>for Scouts</i>)
Men's socks in good condition	Coatroom by upstairs restroom . . .	Nancy Fennell (<i>Alliance Hall</i>)
Toiletries (from hotels/motels)	Coatroom by upstairs restroom . . .	Nancy Fennell (<i>Alliance Hall</i>)
Eyeglasses.	Coatroom by upstairs restroom . . .	Nancy Fennell (<i>Center for Visually Handicapped</i>)
Good used sneakers	Coatroom by upstairs restroom . . .	Nancy Fennell (<i>Alliance Hall</i>)
Plastic bags	Coatroom by upstairs restroom . . .	Nancy Fennell (<i>Food Bank</i>)
Styrofoam Peanuts	Coatroom by upstairs restroom . . .	Nancy Fennell (<i>recycled @ Mailbox</i>)
Styrofoam medicine boxes and shipping packaging ONLY	Coatroom by upstairs restroom . . .	Nancy Fennell (<i>recycled @ Bethlehem Recycling</i>)
<i>Styrofoam trays, cups, plates, egg cartons, food containers, etc. are no longer accepted. Please dispose of in your trash.</i>		
General Mills box tops for education; cash register receipts from Redner's & Fairgrounds Market;		
Campbell's labels	Appropriate boxes in narthex	Cheryl Christensen
Rubber Bands*	Coatroom by upstairs restroom . . .	Nancy Fennell (<i>*from newspapers</i>)
Current Calendars.	Cabinet in narthex.	Anyone who can use them
Empty printer, fax machine or desktop copier cartridges.		
Old cell phones.	Coatroom by upstairs restroom . . .	Nancy Fennell (<i>recycled @ FundingFactory</i>)
Women's and Men's business attire and accessories... (<i>for "The Perfect Fit"/"First Impressions for Men"</i>)		
(Must be Clean, Good Condition/gently used laundered/ironed)		
IN SEASON ONLY!!!	Coatroom by upstairs restroom . . .	Gloria Hinrichs

Thanks for your help and cooperation with these projects!



Transforming lives by **Connecting Communities**

Worship on Wednesdays - 7 pm

Welcome Worship Center Pavilion

Bring a friend and a lawn chair (moved indoors if stormy)

Refreshments served

PRAISE BAND music begins at 6:45 pm

- June 13** **SWiM** (Emmanuel's Lutheran Church), Bath
- June 20** **Horizon Church Praise Band**, Allentown
- June 27** **REZ Music Ministry**, Northampton
- July 4** **The Patriotic Brass Band**, Allentown
- July 11** **Remanant Sound Worship Band**, Emmaus/Schnecksville
- July 18** **Glorious Day** (St. Timothy Praise Band) **and the West Side Collaborative Church Choirs** (Christ Lutheran, Redeemer Lutheran, St. Timothy Lutheran)
- July 25** **The Blend** (Part of The Barn Faith Community), Allentown
- August 1** **10:10** (First Presbyterian Church), Allentown
- August 8** **Calvary Moravian Church Praise Band**, Allentown
- August 15** **Grace Notes Gospel Big Band**, Lehigh Valley
- August 22** **Annual Peach Festival featuring Bobby Siegfried**, Solo Artist, Bath

MONTHLY CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AND EVENTS

JULY 2018

Key: [F] = Fellowship Hall [L] = Lounge [P] = Pastor's Office [NV] = Nave
 [N] = Nursery [LB] = Library [YR] = Youth Room [LP] = Land of Promise

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Pentecost 6 9:30 am–Worship	2 OFFICE CLOSED 7 pm–Boy Scouts [F]	3 7 am– <i>Prayer for Peace</i> [L] 9 am–12 pm–Quilters [L] 12–3 pm–Office Open	4 Independence Day 12–3 pm–Office Open 1 pm–Executive Committee [P] 7 pm–WOW Service featuring The Patriotic Brass Band [LP] 7 pm–Allentown Hiking Club [F]	5 12–3 pm–Office Open 6:30–8:30 pm–Glorious Day Rehearsal [L]	6 12–3 pm–Office Open 6:30–11 pm–Chess Club [L]	7 9 am–Outreach Committee [L]
8 Pentecost 7 10:15 am–Worship at Hope UCC	9 OFFICE CLOSED 9 am–Property Committee [L]	10 7 am– <i>Prayer for Peace</i> [L] 12–3 pm–Office Open 7 pm–Congregation Council Meeting [L]	11 12–3 pm–Office Open 7 pm–WOW Service featuring Remnant Sound Worship Band [LP] AARP in Parking Lot	12 12–3 pm–Office Open 2 pm–Daybreak Mission Team 6 pm–Scout Commissioners Meeting [F]	13 12–3 pm–Office Open 6:30–11 pm–Chess Club [L]	14
15 Pentecost 8 6:30 am–Mission Team @ St. Paul's 9:30 am–Worship with Hope UCC at St. Timothy ~10:30 am–Blood Pressure Screening [L]	16 OFFICE CLOSED 7 pm–Mental Health Support Group [L]	17 7 am– <i>Prayer for Peace</i> [L] 9 am–12 pm–Quilters [L] 12–3 pm–Office Open	18 12–3 pm–Office Open 5 pm–Glorious Day Setup [LP] 6 pm–Glorious Day Rehearsal [LP] 7 pm–WOW Service featuring West Side Collaborative Choirs and Glorious Day [LP]	19 12–3 pm–Office Open Secretary on Vacation	20 12–3 pm–Office Open Secretary on Vacation 6:30–11 pm–Chess Club [L]	21
22 Pentecost 9 9:30 am–Worship 11:15 am–Joint St. Timothy and Hope UCC Council Meeting [F]	23 OFFICE CLOSED	24 7 am– <i>Prayer for Peace</i> [L] 12–3 pm–Office Open Secretary on Vacation	25 12–3 pm–Office Open Secretary on Vacation 7 pm–AA [F] 7 pm–WOW Service featuring The Blend from the Barm [LP]	26 12–3 pm–Office Open Secretary on Vacation	27 12–3 pm–Office Open 6:30–11 pm–Chess Club [L]	28 12–5 pm–Fennell Anniversary Party [F]
29 Pentecost 10 9:30 am–Worship	30 OFFICE CLOSED	31 7 am– <i>Prayer for Peace</i> [L] 12–3 pm–Office Open				

MONTHLY CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AND EVENTS

AUGUST 2018

Key: [F] = Fellowship Hall [L] = Lounge [P] = Pastor's Office [NV] = Nave
 [N] = Nursery [LB] = Library [YR] = Youth Room [LP] = Land of Promise

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 12-3 pm–Office Open 1 pm–Executive Committee [P] 7 pm–WOW Service featuring 10:10 from First Presbyterian Church [LP] 7 pm–Allentown Hiking Club [F]	2 12-3 pm–Office Open 1:30 pm–Mutual Ministry [L]	3 12-3 pm–Office Open 6:30-11pm–Chess Club [L]	4 9 am–Outreach Committee [L]
5 Pentecost 11 10:15 am–Worship ~10:30 am–Blood Pressure Screening [L]	6 OFFICE CLOSED 9 am–Property Committee [L]	7 7 am–Prayer for Peace [L] 12-3 pm–Office Open 3 pm–Worship Committee Meeting [L]	8 12-3 pm–Office Open 1 pm–Executive Committee [P] 7 pm–WOW Service featuring Calvary Moravian Church Praise Band [LP]	9 12-3 pm–Office Open 2 pm–Daybreak Mission Team 6 pm–Scout Commissioners Meeting [F]	10 12-3 pm–Office Open 6:30-11pm–Chess Club [L]	11
12 Pentecost 12 9:30 am–Worship	13 OFFICE CLOSED	14 7 am–Prayer for Peace [L] 9 am-12 pm–Quilters [L] 12-3 pm–Office Open Operation Sunshine in Parking Lot	15 12-3 pm–Office Open 7 pm–WOW Service featuring Grace Notes Gospel Big Band [LP] SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	16 12-3 pm–Office Open	17 12-3 pm–Office Open 6:30-11pm–Chess Club [L]	18 12-5 pm–Cub Pack 5 Event [LP]
19 Pentecost 13 6:30 am–Mission Team @ St. Paul's 9:30 am–Worship Bakers may pick up peaches after worship	20 OFFICE CLOSED 7 pm–Mental Health Support Group [L]	21 7 am–Prayer for Peace [L] 12-3 pm–Office Open	22 12-3 pm–Office Open 7 pm–AA [F] 7 pm–Peach Festival featuring music of Bobby Siegfried [Front of Church]	23 Sister Janet on Vacation 12-3 pm–Office Open	24 Sister Janet on Vacation 12-3 pm–Office Open 6:30-11pm–Chess Club [L]	25 Sister Janet on Vacation
26 Pentecost 14 Sister Janet on Vacation 9:30 am–Worship Guest Pastor Mia White	27 Sister Janet on Vacation OFFICE CLOSED 7 pm–Boy Scouts [F]	28 Sister Janet on Vacation 12-3 pm–Office Open	29 Sister Janet on Vacation 12-3 pm–Office Open AARP in Parking Lot	30 Sister Janet on Vacation 12-3 pm–Office Open	31 Sister Janet on Vacation 12-3 pm–Office Open 6:30-11pm–Chess Club [L]	

SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

Assembly 2018 Sharing Ministries - Building Relationships

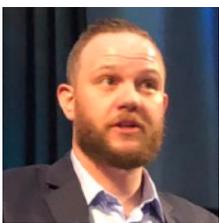
Churchwide Ministries



Pastor President Gustavo Gómez Pascua from our companion church, Iglesia Evangélica Luterana Unida, in Argentina and Uruguay addressed the Assembly on Friday.

He shared some of the topics and concerns trending in his church. Many were similar to the challenges faced by congregations of the ELCA.

Pastor President Pascua brought along his guitar; and on several occasions, he led the Assembly in songs used by congregations in his church.



Nick Kiger, ELCA Associate Director for Mission Support, brought greetings on behalf of Presiding Bishop

Elizabeth Eaton. He shared two videos: "2017 in Review" and "We Are Lutheran" (available on the synod website: godslove.org).

NEPA Synod Ministries



The Assembly was delighted to receive the **Hmong Community Evangelical Lutheran Church** as a congregation of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod. In 1978, Saint Simeon's Lutheran Church in

Philadelphia sponsored the first Hmong family from Laos to the Greater Philadelphia area. In February of 1996, the Hmong Community Evangelical Lutheran Church was established. When all of its members relocated and settled within Berks & Lancaster counties, the church found a new home at Allegheny, Knauers in 2012.

Bishop Zeiser welcomed Pr. ShongChai Hang, congregational president Cheng Lo, vice president Kai Lee, and other congregational representatives to come forward for the official vote by the Assembly.

On Saturday the **Bear Creek Camp Summer Staff** was installed. Under the leadership of director Dan Scharnhorst, the



summer camp program has dramatically increased in numbers; and the Assembly warmly applauded both Dan and the dedicated young people who will staff the camp.

During worship at the Assembly, offerings were collected in support of **Young Adults in Global Ministry** (\$2,859.92) and the **ELCA World Hunger Appeal** (\$2,547).

Ministry Displays, Workshops, and Service Projects



Delegates were invited to experience the Assembly theme, "Sharing Ministries and Building Relationships," in four different ways: (1) by visiting Bear Creek Camp, (2) by participating in one of several local service projects, (3) by visiting the ministry display tables, and (4) by attending one of the workshops. Two extended blocks of time were available on Friday for these experiences.



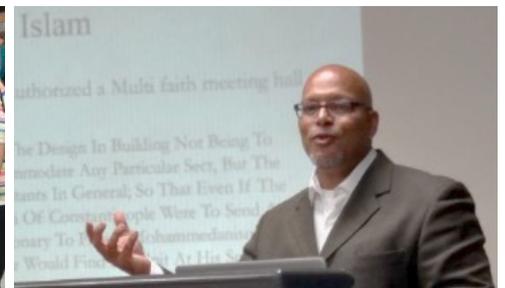
Bear Creek Camp. Delegates who chose to visit Bear Creek Camp could help prepare the camp for the upcoming summer program, could participate in a Hunger Walk, or could simply spend time enjoying the beautiful setting.



Local Service Projects. There were about a dozen opportunities to engage in a service project to benefit the Wilkes-Barre community. These included packing food for the hungry, filling backpacks for children, materials for disaster relief, a highway cleanup, helping children create a mural, and helping at the SPCA.



Ministry Display Tables and Workshops. There was a wide assortment of ministry displays, as well as workshops on "Pastoral Care Providers," "Faith Facing Racism and Religious Prejudice: Sharing Hopes and Strategies," and "ELCA Inter-religious Commitments -- Review and Response."



More information and pictures are available on the synod website at <http://nepasynod.org/highlights-assembly-2018>. **Assembly 2019 will be a one-day event on June 1 at Genetti's Ballrooms in Hazleton.** This is being done to keep down costs for congregations in anticipation of a three-day assembly at the Kalahari Resort on June 4-6, 2020 when the synod will elect a new bishop.

Synod News is published monthly by the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA
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View the full color edition online at <http://nepasynod.org/publications/synod-news>.

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September 2018 LMD NL news will be due August 17, 2018.
E-Mail any information to me at lmd.newslettereditor@gmail.com.

There's Room for You in a Centering Prayer Group - Centering Prayer is a particular form of quiet, receptive prayer as taught by Father Thomas Keating and Rev. Dr. Cynthia Bourgeault. So, whether you never heard of centering prayer, are a beginner, or an experienced pray-er, all are welcome. **Jul. 6th, 10:30 - 11:30 AM.** Led by Rev. Maritza Dolich and Rev. Dr. Tom Lichner. Center for Spiritual Awakening at Christ Lutheran Church, **1245 W. Hamilton Street, Allentown, PA 18102.** Parking available in Lot across Hamilton St. from Church. **Please let us know if you will be joining us.** Inquiries to Rev. Dr. Tom Lichner, Director Center for Spiritual Awakening tlichner@rcn.com / [610-533-9362](tel:610-533-9362).

Spiritual Care for Elder Care-Givers 2018 - In today's American culture, many adults are providing full-time or part-time care for their elder parents, relatives, friends, or neighbors. Elder-care-giving can certainly be challenging, presenting both joys and frustrations to elders and their care-givers. Meetings will be held at the Center for Spiritual Awakening at Christ Lutheran Church, [1245 W. Hamilton St., Allentown, PA 18102](http://1245.W.Hamilton.St.,Allentown,PA18102). Parking is available in a lot across Hamilton Street from the church. **Wednesday July 18th, 1:30 - 3:00 pm.** Led by Rev. Dr. Tom Lichner, specially trained in Pastoral Counseling and Spiritual Direction. Please direct your interest to Pastor Tom Lichner at tlichner@rcn.com OR [610-533-9362](tel:610-533-9362).

CROP Kick-Off Pizza Party!

You and your family are invited to the **CROP Hunger Walk Kick-Off Pizza Party** on **Sun., Aug. 26, 1:30-2:30 pm** at **St. Timothy's Lutheran** (Ott & Walnut Streets, Allentown, PA 18104). Enjoy free food and receive materials, ideas, and inspiration for yourself and your congregation. **RSVP by Wed., Aug. 22,** to Linda Held, jucc3441@ptd.net.



Contemplative Prayer - Prayer Around the Cross - You are invited to join with others for a time of contemplative opening to the Spirit of God in and around us. We invite God's Light to shine in our hearts and to awakening our consciousness to live lives of mercy, justice, and love. Please join together in this brief time of sacred reading, silent reflection, poetry, chanting, candle lighting, intercessory prayer, and ample space for quiet reflection. **Third Sat. of each Month, 5:00 - 5:45 PM** at Christ Lutheran Church, 1245 W. Hamilton Street, Allentown, Pa, 18102. Parking lot across street from church. Address inquiries to Rev. Tom Lichner at tlichner@rcn.com.

Can you provide an hour or two per week to help someone who wants to change their life? St Luke's at 417 N 7th St, Allentown still has an ongoing need for volunteers to assist as tutors or substitutes for our growing multi-level ELL Program for individuals who desperately want to learn English. No foreign language needed. **ELL days and hours are, Monday and Thursday 9:30-11:30 a.m. and Wednesdays from 5:00-7:00 p.m. We always need help. We are especially looking for people who a comfortable around computers.** Contact Leslie Talago or Pastor Lamb at [610-434-3943](tel:610-434-3943) or stluke@enter.net

Greater Allentown CROP Hunger Walk:

Sun., Oct. 14, 1:30 p.m.,

beginning and ending at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, [140 S. Ott St., Allentown, PA 18104](http://140.S.Ott.St.,Allentown,PA18104), with registration starting at 1 p.m.

The CROP Hunger Walk is a great fellowship and service event for families, youth groups, adult groups, and congregations. Twenty-five percent of the funds raised by the CROP Hunger Walk returns to the Lehigh Valley to support the Allentown Area Ecumenical Food Bank and the Lehigh Conference of Churches Soup Kitchen. The remaining 75% is used by Church World Service for disaster relief (e.g., for communities in the United States and around the world devastated by hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, and floods) and development assistance (e.g., assisting poor families with clean drinking water, seeds, tools, and irrigation).

For a sponsor form, please contact your own congregation, or log on at www.crophungerwalk.org for further information about CROP or for making online donations.



LESSONS IN MERCY
Christian Reflections On Addiction
Fall Workshop

Attached to this mid-summer newsletter is a flyer and registration form involving the special workshop titled **WE THIRST: LESSONS IN MERCY (Christian Reflections on Addiction)** which is scheduled for the five Wednesday evenings in October. It was announced initially in the May Newsletter, but continued planning has led to the development of the special piece and has brought us to the point where we hope you will help to spread the word and encourage registrations. This project is a shared effort of the Lehigh, Bethlehem-Easton and Northern Lehigh Mission Districts.

Now, let's re-define the program and re-introduce its leader. As noted, we're talking about a five-session program which is appropriately subtitled **Christian Reflections On Addiction**. It will focus our attention on the epidemic of addiction which is paralyzing our society and the ways in which we, as followers of Christ, can respond to those who are suffering – including the marginalized, the sick, and the oppressed. It is designed to educate and spread awareness, but unlike other secular programs of this nature, this Christian series offers **Hope and Support, Encourages Community, and Fosters Mercy, Faith and Love**. The five sessions are subtitled 1) Biology; 2) Psychology; 3) Sociology; 4) Spirituality; and 5) Action.

As also noted previously, the leader of this program will be **Nina Marie Corona, M.A., C.R.S.** Nina is a graduate of Muhlenberg College. In addition, she possesses a Master of Arts in Spirituality from Loyola University Chicago and is pursuing a Doctor of Ministry at Fordham University. Interestingly, her degree from Muhlenberg focused on Studio Arts and, consequently, when not teaching, presenting or writing, she utilizes her artistic gifts in painting, drawing and sculpting to express herself and the experiences that have brought both joy and pain to her life. Nina also obtained education certification in Alcohol & Drug Counseling from Villanova and is a Pennsylvania Board Certified Recovery Specialist. She is looking forward to sharing these evenings with us.

This very special program is scheduled for the five Wednesday evenings in October (3, 10, 17, 24 & 31 between the hours of 7:00PM and 9:00PM (6:45 – 7:00 for coffee or tea). It will be held at Nativity Lutheran Church, 4004 W. Tilghman Street, Allentown, PA 18104, which was deemed an accessible site for all those who have been invited and encouraged to participate. As noted on the registration materials, the participation fee has been set at \$10 per person (or \$15 per family or companion unit). Participants for one session will also be welcomed for simply \$5 which can be paid the evening of involvement. Obviously, as also noted on the registration form, it is hoped that this form and a check for the fee will be sent to Nativity Church. Checks may be payable to Nativity Lutheran Church (Attn. Lessons in Mercy). **For additional information, call Nativity at 610-395-5062** and your call will be returned as soon as possible by someone involved in the program.

This is obviously a very unique opportunity in a day and age which is, unfortunately, becoming increasingly stressed by various addictions. Even if we are blessed by not being directly involved, there are opportunities for us to be helpful to those around us. Involvement in this program will help us develop the insights and skills which are needed to respond positively to these challenges. Our involvement is invited and encouraged.

Pastor Richard Stough

OPERATION SUNSHINE

36 S. 8th St, Allentown, PA 18101

Phone: 610-435-9155

Open: Mon 11-3 Wed. 9-4

E-mail: LMDopsunshine@aol.com

Web site: www.LMDopsunshine.com

Paula & Dick Skelly Co-Trip Coordinators

Day of Trip Emergency Number 610-417-3286

Operation Sunshine is a non-profit fellowship opportunity within our Mission District, run solely by volunteers. Please join us and invite your friends as we enjoy a variety of venues together.

August 14 (Tues.) – Sight and Sound - JESUS – Lunch at Shady Maple Buffet. **LIMITED SEATING AVAILABLE.**

Bus leaves St. Timothy's at 9:30 AM and will return approximately 7:00 PM

Cost \$105.00 Payment Deadline: Thurs., July 12

September 20, (Thurs.) – Dutch Apple Theater – SISTER ACT

Lunch Buffet and show. **LIMITED SEATING AVAILABLE**

Bus leaves St. Timothy's at 10:00 AM and will return approximately 5:00 PM

Cost \$91.00 Payment Deadline: Thurs., Aug. 30

NEW...NEW...NEW

October 15-16 (Overnight) – VILLA ROMA RESORT AND BETHEL

WOODS MUSEUM – Operation Sunshine wants to take you back in time with a visit to the Bethel Woods Museum in Bethel, New York where The Woodstock Music Festival took place in 1969. Come check out all the memorabilia through rooms of exhibits and movies about one of the greatest festivals of all time. After our private viewing in the museum, we head to beautiful Villa Roma Resort for an overnight stay which includes: Coffee and Cake upon arrival, a full dinner our first evening, evening music and variety show, breakfast, 4-course lunch and a 2 PM show starring The Unexpected Boys with their Jersey Boys show (Frankie Valle and the Four Seasons) before we leave for home. Of course, you can enjoy the Villa Roma grounds and activities in your free time at the resort, some of which are bocce, shuffleboard, ping pong table games, indoor swimming pool and Jacuzzi and a fitness center.

Bus Leaves Cedar Church at 10:00 AM and will return approximately 7:30 PM

CALL THE OPERATION SUNSHINE OFFICE FOR PRICING AND DETAILS – 610-435-9155

